



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 25, 2008
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CLEVELAND MAN SENTENCED TO TWELVE MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON IN COUNTERFEIT CHECK CASHING SCHEME

DAYTON, OHIO— Kelly Beckles, age 38, of Cleveland, Ohio, was sentenced yesterday to twelve months imprisonment for cashing counterfeit checks at Dayton-area Fifth Third Bank locations stemming from a conspiracy with two others.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Kurt D. Douglass, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service Cincinnati Field Division, announced the sentence delivered Thursday by United States District Judge Walter Herbert Rice.

Beckles was charged on August 21, 2007 with possessing counterfeit securities. The scheme involved Beckles and two co-conspirators, Shantell Bulloch and Jimmy Kilgore, who traveled to Dayton from Grand Rapids, Michigan. While in Dayton, each possessed and negotiated counterfeit payroll checks from a fictitious employer, "Job 1 USA." All the checks were made out for approximately \$975, with Beckles, Bulloch and Kilgore each cashing five counterfeit checks at various Fifth Third Bank branches in the Dayton area over a three day period, for a total of \$14,574.25.

Bulloch and Kilgore were both arrested in Michigan and prosecuted there for the crimes. Bulloch was sentenced to twelve months in prison and Kilgore is scheduled to be sentenced in June. Beckles must serve three years on supervised release at the conclusion of his jail term, the first six months of which must be spent in a residential drug treatment program. He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$4,836.55 to Fifth Third Bank.

Lockhart commended the Secret Service agents who conducted the investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

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